AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following section running from the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 to the 1st paragraph on page 19 of the specification as follows:

In an information delivery system and a method of the present invention, a part of delivery information (partial information), which an information user hopes to obtain, has been already written in a recording medium embedded in an information storage and playback device beforehand at the moment when the information user operates the information storage and playback device. Therefore, it is possible to access the necessary partial information and start reproducing it immediately. The remaining delivery information needs to be read (downloaded) from an information delivery device through an information communicating means. It takes some time to finish downloading, and it also takes some time to reproduce all of the partial information which is stored in the recording medium. In the case where the volume of the data for the partial information is light, the reproduction finishes at once. On the other hand, in the case where the volume of the data for the partial information is heavy, it takes more time to reproduce it according to the volume. Therefore, by setting up the volume of data for the partial information to adequate volume, the remaining information is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device when the reproduction of the partial information has almost finished, so that it is possible to reproduce the remaining information in real time ~~(claims 1 and 17)~~. Even in the case where the volume of the remaining information is heavy, it is possible to reproduce the remaining information just as the remaining information is stored in the information storage and playback device ~~(claims 2 and 18)~~. Therefore, all of the information including the remaining information, which the information user hopes to obtain,

can be delivered without a break as well as the information is delivered just as the information user operates the information storage and playback device.

The scope of the partial information, which is stored in the information storage and playback device, can be chosen diversely. The simplest method to set up the partial information is to store the partial information concerning all of the information which is held by an information provider in the information storage and playback device beforehand ~~(claims 3 to 6 and 19 to 22)~~. However, in the case where the provider holds volumes of information, it is difficult to store the partial information concerning all of the information in relation to memory capacity. Therefore, in the case where the volume of information is heavy, it is needed to narrow down the information which will be stored in the information storage and playback device.

There are several methods to narrow down the information.

As a first method, the information provider divides the information into some groups beforehand, and an information user of the information storage and playback device chooses a group(s) from the divided groups ~~(claims 3 to 6 and 19 to 22)~~. The information provider can divide the delivery information into proper size taking the memory capacity of user's magnetic storage and playback device into account. Besides, it is also possible to offer information in conformity with user's wishes by letting the user choose the information.

As a second method, the information provider chooses a group(s) to offer ~~(claims 3 to 6 and 19 to 22)~~. In this method to choose an information group(s), the provider can offer an information group(s) which is assumed to be needed by an information user(s). Besides, the information provider can add a certain volume of information of which the provider wishes to inform the information user(s) to the information assumed to be needed by the information user(s) at a constant rate.

As a third method, the delivery information is prioritized according to a past record of information used by an information user, and divided into delivery information and non-delivery information according to the order of the priority ~~(claims 3 to 6 and 19 to 22)~~. This method has the advantage of delivering information in which the user is interested by the priority. Besides, by prioritizing information related to the information which has been delivered in the same order by the set up of the information delivery system, it is possible to promote the user's convenience.

As a fourth method, the delivery information is prioritized according to past records of information used by plural information users, and divided into delivery information and non-delivery information according to the order of the priority ~~(claims 3 to 6 and 19 to 22)~~. By setting up a group(s) or scope of users whose past records are consulted on the provider's side, it is possible to promote the users' convenience.

By renewing information delivered to a user(s) according to need, it is possible to prevent scope of delivery information from eroding ~~(claims 5, 6, 21 and 22)~~.

The remaining information transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device is reproduced after being stored in the information storage and playback device ~~(claims 2 and 18)~~. In the case where information transfer speed is late, latency arises during reproducing the partial information, and delivering information becomes discontinuous. However, this problem is avoidable by reproducing the remaining information after storing the remaining information in the information storage and playback device. That is, it becomes possible to deliver information continuously and to control reproducing speed so that an user(s) does not feel odd even though the reproduction is discontinuous.

By user's operation of the information storage and playback device, or automatically according to the condition of the information storage and playback device, a notice of an information delivery is given to the information delivery device or an information provider through the information communicating means as a record. By transmitting the record to the information delivery device or an information provider, it becomes possible to store data which will be basis for making out a delivery information group(s), and to change an information group(s) chosen by an information user(s).

By embedding a storage and playback device which employs a hard disk for a medium in the information storage and playback device, it is possible to increase an available volume of information to store.

By equipping the information storage and playback device with plural recording mediums, copying information chosen by a user(s) from a plurality of partial information stored in the information storage and playback device beforehand into one of the recording mediums, downloading remaining information, and uniting the remaining information to the partial information, it is possible to make out a disk including a series of information. Besides, by employing a removable medium, an optical disk such as a phase change optical disk, and a tape medium for the download, it becomes possible to keep the medium into which information is downloaded detaching from the information storage and playback device ~~(claims 7 to 10)~~.

By employing electric wave such as wave going through a satellite for an information communicating means, it becomes possible to supply much information from the information delivery devices in a wide range of area to the information storage and playback device. It is effective to employ a communicating means utilizing a telephone line, which is typified by

the Internet, in transmitting wide range of information to the information storage and playback device ~~(claims 11 and 12)~~.

The object of the present invention is to provide an information delivery system which is capable of supplying volumes of information without a pause or making a user(s) feel odd. The information delivery device shows its favourable attribute most clearly when it is applied to the delivery of heavy volumes of information such as image information, moving picture information, music information, and voice information ~~(claims 13 to 16)~~. It is possible to transmit more information by compressing information ~~(claims 15 and 16)~~.

In the case where delivery information is pay information, timing of accounting can be chosen from timing below:

A. at the same time of a start of reproducing partial information;

B. after a prescribed period of time from a start of utilization of partial information;

C. after delivering a prescribed volume of information from a start of utilization of partial information;

D. at the same time of a start of delivering remaining information;

E. after a prescribed period of time from a start of delivering remaining information;

F. after delivering a prescribed volume of information from a star of delivering remaining information; and

G. after a finish of delivering remaining information ~~(claims 23 to 27)~~.

Please amend the 1st full paragraph in the DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS on page 20 of the specification as follows:

Referring now to the drawings, embodiments of the present invention will be explained in detail. Similar element numbers in the various Figures refer to similar elements.

Please amend the 3rd full paragraph on page 27 of the specification as follows:

A method of renewing the pieces of the partial information belonging to the information group ~~(S60)~~ is the same as that of the fifth embodiment as shown in Fig.6.

Please amend the 2nd full paragraph on page 28 of the specification as follows:

On a start of reproducing the chosen partial information, information that the partial information has been chosen is transmitted from the information storage and playback device 2 to the information delivery device 3 through the information communicating means 1. By receiving the information (that the partial information has been chosen), instructions to transmit the rest of the chosen information to the information storage and playback device 2 is issued (S4). Thereby, the remaining information is transmitted from the information delivery device 3 to the information storage and playback device 2 (S5). At the information storage and playback device 2, the transmitted remaining information is stored in a first recording medium embedded in the information storage and playback device 2 (~~S6~~ S30). In response to the completion of reproducing the partial information and storing it in the second recording medium (S81), the remaining information is reproduced at the information storage and playback device 2 and stored in the second recording medium (S82, S83).

Please amend the 2nd full paragraph on page 30 of the specification as follows:

Fig. 10 shows a case where accounting information is transmitted from a side of an information provider. In this embodiment, in the information delivery device 3, the accounting information is transmitted to an accounting system 4 and the accounting is carried out (S100) when the remaining information is transmitted to an information storage and playback device 2. Besides, the accounting information is transmitted to a payment system 5 and the payment is carried out (S101).